

**Report of the Archival Educators Roundtable
2015-2016
Society of American Archivists
Beth Davis-Brown, Chair**

The Archival Educators Roundtable (AERT) attempted to regain its footing in the past year by surveying the membership and determining the degree of interest in keeping the roundtable afloat. The survey did provide some interesting data about the types of members in the group, what their interests are in terms of topics to explore as a group, and the members who are interested in serving in leadership roles for the AERT in the future.

Membership Survey

Working closely with SAA Council liaison Amy Cooper Cary, Chair Beth Davis-Brown prepared draft survey questions that were shared with and shaped by the steering committee to create the survey. After much input and discussion, the instrument was finalized in SurveyMonkey with the assistance of Felicia Owens of the SAA staff. It was decided not to include in this particular survey questions about the SAA Student Chapters at various institutions, but that survey could be handled in a separate effort at a later time to avoid confusion.

Responses were received during almost two weeks in June with a response rate of 12% (See Appendix 1.) Survey results and a summary appear in Appendix 2.

One of the benefits of the survey results being received in June was the opportunity to contact respondents who had expressed interest in serving on the steering committee and/or making a presentation to the group.

We were able to recruit two new steering committee members to run to replace outgoing members Kelvin White and Donald Force. Donald Force was in turn convinced to run for chair. Edward Benoit, II, assistant professor and coordinator of the Archival Studies Program at the School of Library and Information Science at Louisiana State University, and Miriam Meislik, media curator at the University of Pittsburgh and adjunct lecturer in the School of Information Sciences there, were contacted from their survey responses and agreed to run.

Annual Meeting

Sixteen SAA members attended the annual meeting of the AERT in Atlanta at 7:30 am on Friday, August 5. (See Appendix 3 for the full agenda.)

Alison Clemens spoke first from the SAA Committee on Education regarding the ongoing support for the DAS curriculum, the development of an arrangement and description curriculum certificate, and ongoing maintenance of the *Guidelines for a Graduate Program in Archival History*.

SAA Council liaison Amy Cooper Cary provided details and more information about the changes with roundtables and interest groups that were voted upon, so that the AERT will become a section along with all other former round tables and interest groups. Details on this change were circulated broadly in Council minutes to the SAA Membership.

Davis-Brown started a discussion of the group's new meeting time (7:30 am on Friday morning of the conference; previously it had met on Wednesday afternoon at 4:00 pm.)

The group agreed that they would prefer to not have a meeting so early in the day and that they would like to have the AERT meet closer to but not in conflict with the time of the Research Forum. The Research Forum for 2016 was on Tuesday from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. Returning the AERT meeting time back to the Wednesday at 4:00 pm slot would possibly engage more attendees at the AERT meeting itself if archival educators had traveled to the annual meeting specifically for the Research Forum. We agreed to bring this issue to the attention of SAA leadership through our SAA Council liaison and through this report.

Davis-Brown introduced the group to the survey of the AERT membership that was conducted and reviewed the results. Please see summary results in Appendix 2.

For the program portion of the meeting, Helen Tibbo had volunteered in her survey response to lead a discussion of engendering discussion in the online classroom. Amy Cooper Cary of Marquette University agreed to assist Tibbo, and they led a wide ranging discussion for the group about student and instructor interaction in the online classroom, both in synchronous and asynchronous courses. It is a distinct skill for archival educators to be able to prepare and teach online courses in addition to still teaching face-to-face courses. The group came up with some ideas for future topics that may be of interest to the AERT members:

- How to create an effective short form video for classes
- Provide an internal list of experts and 15-minute videos on topics that could be integrated into various courses
- Create a "data bank" of recorded videos and podcasts that could be shared by AERT members to use in teaching their courses. The AERT could be the repository for this resource
- Guest "lecturers" could be recruited from the archival community to present in online courses via a recorded Skype session and then be available for a week in an online forum to answer follow-up questions and participate in discussions
- Create a general resource bank for online educators, regarding pedagogical techniques and sample collections to process
- A case study bank that would be shared could also be very useful ("crowd sourced" case studies)

Appendix 1. Message to membership introducing the survey

June 6, 2016

Dear Archival Educators Roundtable Members,

Clicking on the link below will allow you to respond to a survey regarding our membership. The AERT Steering Committee and the SAA Council are interested in knowing more about the types of positions our members hold and the kind of programming you would like to see in the future from the AERT.

Please give careful consideration to the question asking whether you would be willing to serve on the AERT Steering Committee. As a Steering Committee member, you can influence the direction of the AERT and take part in larger SAA initiatives.

Please complete the survey by June 19, 2016, so that we can compile your responses and have summary data available to share at our August meeting at the SAA Annual Conference.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D7QJL5W>

Thank you in advance for your participation and feedback.

Sincerely,
Beth Davis-Brown
Chair, AERT Steering Committee

Steering Committee Members
Donald Force
Carolyn Hank
Cecilia Salvatore
Seth Shaw
Kelvin White

Amy Cooper Cary, SAA Council Liaison

Appendix 2. Highlights from the AERT Membership Survey

The survey drew 59 respondents out of 485 on the AERT listserv for a response rate of 12%. Below are selected highlights:

Almost 72% of respondents teach in face-to-face settings. (They may also teach in online or hybrid environments)

Just over 88% of respondents taught courses as part of the curriculum in a degree program. Those teaching workshops to archives users or potential users were at 32.56%

In question 9, about 20% of respondents indicated that the main component of their work was providing bibliographic instruction or outreach in an academic, corporate, or non-profit community.

In terms of program planning for the AERT's annual meeting, the responses to question 10 were very helpful. The top topics participants would like to hear presentations on, in order are:

- Presentations on pedagogy
- Programs by archival practitioners on concrete aspects of their work
- Equal interest was expressed in having programs on new research in the archives field and receiving alerts through the year on relevant topics

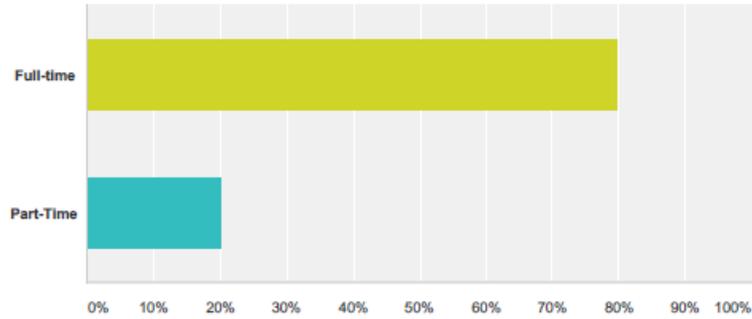
Of least interest was the option of presentations by well-known authors/editors in the archival literature. This indicates that the educators feel that they are up to date on the theoretical aspect of their work, which seems logical, and that they would prefer to hear about practical topics such as teaching methods or learn from practitioners about "real-life" archival projects and priorities.

Sixteen respondents expressed interest in serving on the AERT Steering committee. This provided a good list of potential candidates for following years and informed the slate for this year's election.

AERT Membership Survey

Q1 Which of the following best describes your position at your institution:

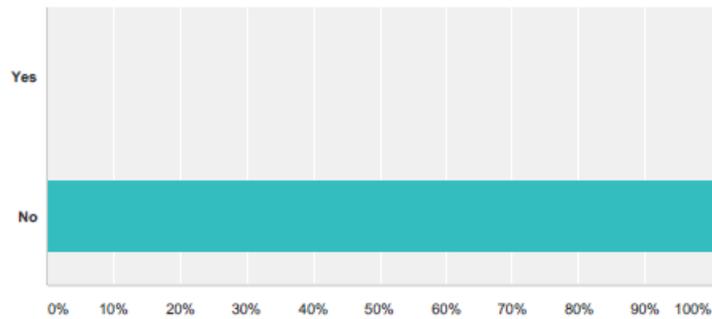
Answered: 59 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses
Full-time	79.66% 47
Part-Time	20.34% 12
Total	59

Q2 Do you also teach part-time at another institution?

Answered: 10 Skipped: 49



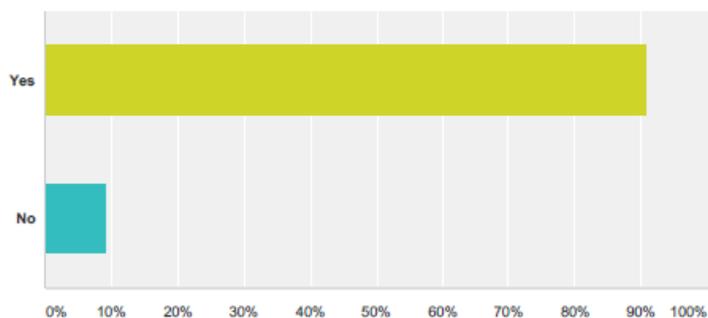
Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	0.00% 0
No	100.00% 10
Total	10

Q3 Do you also work as a part-time or full-

AERT Membership Survey

time archivist?

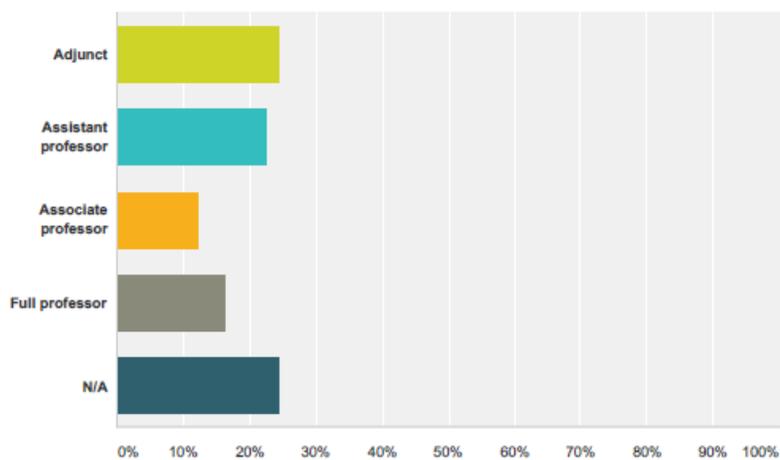
Answered: 11 Skipped: 48



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	90.91%	10
No	9.09%	1
Total		11

Q4 Please indicate your status:

Answered: 49 Skipped: 10



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Adjunct	24.49%	12
Assistant professor	22.45%	11
Associate professor	12.24%	6

AERT Membership Survey

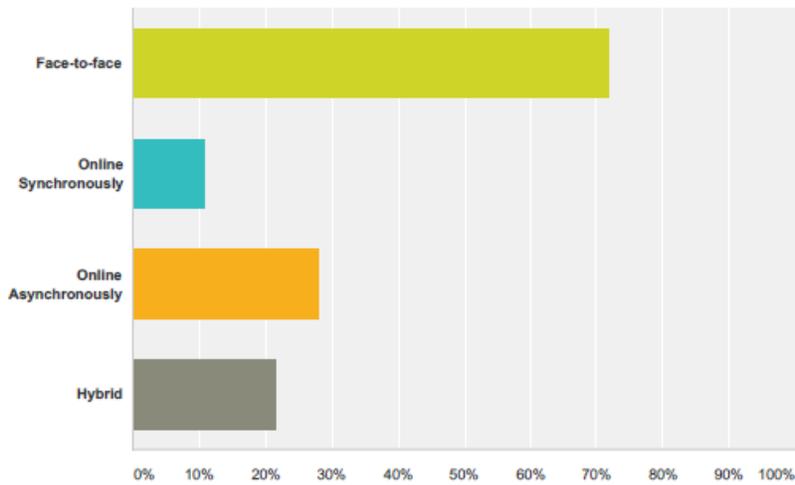
Full professor	16.33%	8
N/A	24.49%	12
Total		49

Q5 How many years have you taught?

Answered: 47 Skipped: 12

**Q6 In what type of setting do you teach?
(check all that apply):**

Answered: 46 Skipped: 13



Answer Choices	Responses
Face-to-face	71.74% 33
Online Synchronously	10.87% 5
Online Asynchronously	28.26% 13
Hybrid	21.74% 10
Total Respondents: 46	

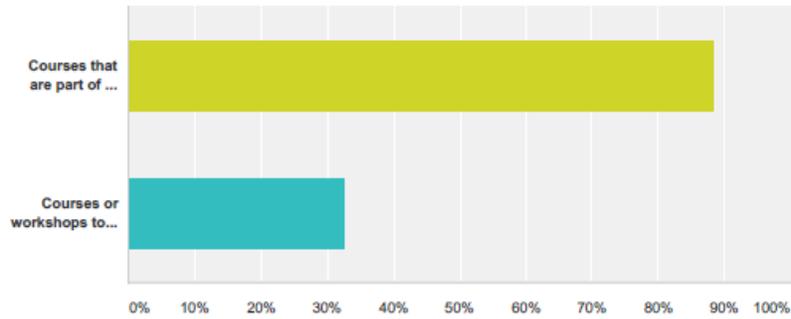
Q7 How many courses a year do you teach regularly?

Answered: 43 Skipped: 16

**Q8 What type of courses do you teach?
(check all that apply):**

AERT Membership Survey

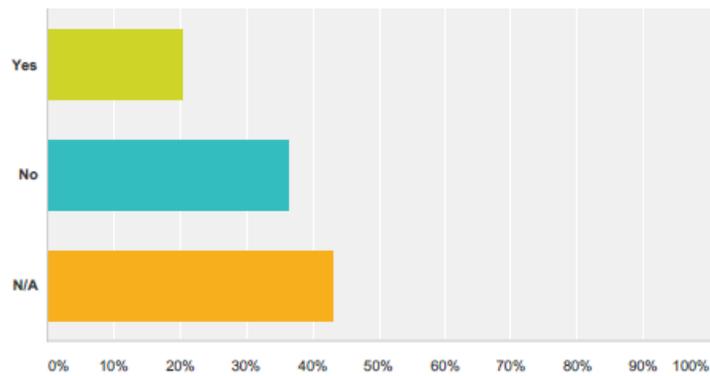
Answered: 43 Skipped: 16



Answer Choices	Responses
Courses that are part of the curriculum in a degree program	88.37% 38
Courses or workshops to archives users or potential users	32.56% 14
Total Respondents: 43	

Q9 If you are not a full-time instructor in a degree program, is the main component of your work providing bibliographic instruction or outreach in an academic, corporate, or non-profit community?

Answered: 44 Skipped: 15



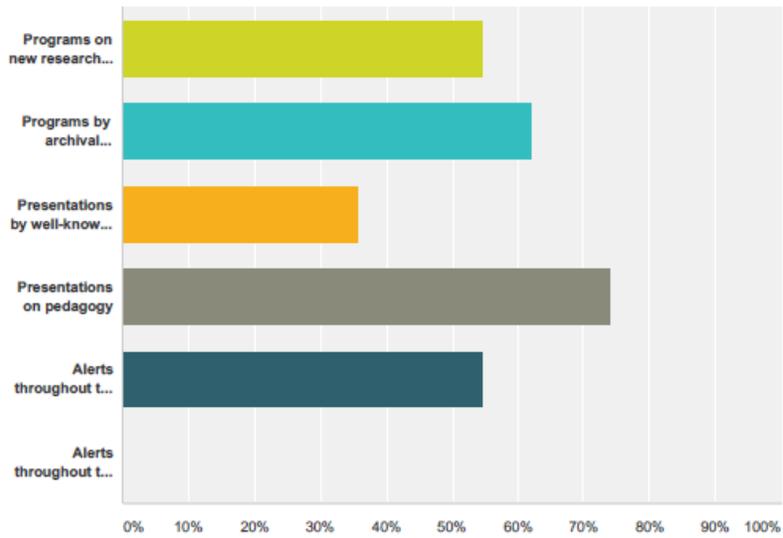
Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	20.45% 9
No	36.36% 16
N/A	43.18% 19

AERT Membership Survey

Total 44

Q10 Which of the following would you like to see from the Archival Educators Roundtable? (check all that apply):

Answered: 42 Skipped: 17

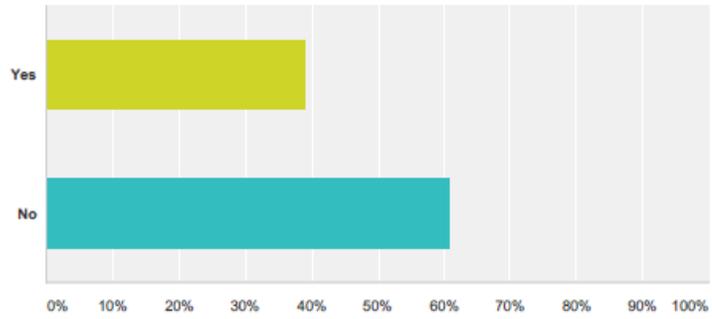


Answer Choices	Responses
Programs on new research in the archives field	54.76% 23
Programs by archival practitioners on concrete aspects of their work	61.90% 26
Presentations by well-known authors/editors in the archival literature	35.71% 15
Presentations on pedagogy	73.81% 31
Alerts throughout the year on relevant topics	54.76% 23
Alerts throughout the year	0.00% 0
Total Respondents: 42	

Q11 Would you be willing to serve on the AERT Steering Committee?

Answered: 41 Skipped: 18

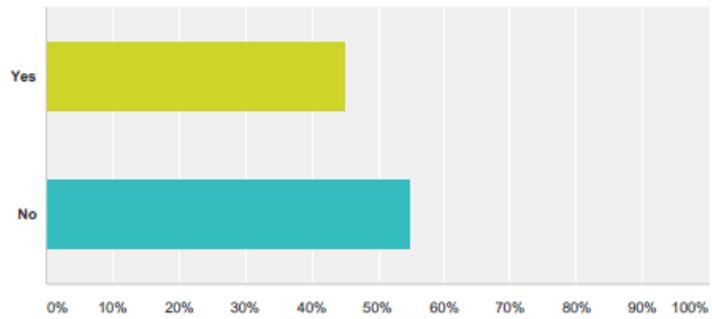
AERT Membership Survey



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	39.02%	16
No	60.98%	25
Total		41

Q12 Would you be willing to be a speaker at the group's annual meeting?

Answered: 40 Skipped: 19



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Yes	45.00%	18
No	55.00%	22
Total		40

Appendix 3. Archival Educators Roundtable Meeting Agenda

Please note new date and time from previous years!

Friday, August 5, 2016

7:30 am-9:00 am Salon B. Hilton Hotel

We look forward to seeing you bright and early on Friday morning for the Archival Educators Roundtable Meeting!

Agenda

Recognition of new officers

Chair

Donald Force

Assistant Professor, School of Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

New Steering Committee Members

Edward Benoit, III

Assistant professor and coordinator of Archival Studies and Cultural Heritage Resource Management Programs in the School of Library and Information Science, Louisiana State University

Miriam Meislik

Media Curator, Archives Service Center, University of Pittsburg; Adjunct Lecturer in the School of Information Science

Update on DAS curriculum, the development of an arrangement and development curriculum certificate, and ongoing maintenance of the Guidelines for a Graduate Program in Archival History

Alison Clemens

Vice-chair, SAA Committee on Education

Archivist, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University

Announcements from SAA Council and Update on SAA Initiatives

Amy Cooper Cary

SAA Council and Liaison to the Archival Educators Roundtable

Head, Special Collections and University Archives, Marquette University

Adjunct Professor, School of Information Studies, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Review of AERT Survey Results

Beth Davis-Brown

Chair, Archival Educators Roundtable

Encouraging and Fomenting Discussion in Online Course Settings

Moderators:

Helen Tibbo, former SAA President
Alumni Distinguished Professor
UNC School of Information and Library Science

Amy Cooper Cary